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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT	Conference on Physics of Solid Bodies and Fundamental Physics, Dresden	DATE DISTR.	28 September 1954
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This is UNEVALUATED

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
 THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. The East German Physics Association (Physikalische Gesellschaft in der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik) of Berlin NW 7, Unter den Linden 68-70, held a conference on Physics of Solid Bodies and Fundamentals of Physics at the HO-Elbe-Hotel, Dresden-Loschwitz, from 8 to 11 April 1954.
2. The conference invitation and program, issued by the East German Physics Association about a month before the conference, contained the names of prospective speakers and the titles of their papers. In fact, only 33 out of the 44 scheduled papers were read; among the listed speakers who did not appear were A. Smekal of Graz, R. Suhrmann of Brunswick, H. Koppe of Goettingen, W. Urich of Tuebingen, Professor Rosenfeld of Manchester and Dr. Martin Strauss, an Englishman, formerly in Berlin but now in Jena.¹ There were, in addition, six contributions by foreign delegates.
3. The following foreign delegates were present:
 - a. USSR:
 - (1) Prof. Sergey Mikhaylovich Chanyshv², with his wife, on Thursday and Friday (8 and 9 April) only. They sat in silence because he understands no German.
 - (2) It was expected that Cherkesov (fnu)³ would be present; he was not, so far as is known.
 - b. Poland:
 - (1) Prof. Leopold Infeld, from Warsaw, spoke on the morning of Sunday, 11 April, on the relativity theory and dialectical materialism. This paper was widely held to be unrelieved rubbish.

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(2) Prof. Piekara (fnu), from Posen, spoke on barium titanate and its dielectric properties.

(3) Sosnovski (fnu), from Posen, was present but did not speak.

c. Bulgaria:

Kaishev⁴ (a former pupil or collaborator of Ivan Stranski; the latter is at present in West Berlin) spoke on the formation of mono-crystal nuclei, spiral growth, etc.

d. Hungary:

(1) Prof. Laszlo Janossy, from Budapest, spoke on fundamental physics. The main object of this exercise appeared to be to use his excellent German. No one attached very much importance to what he had to say.

(2) Hoffman (fnu) and Endre Gaspar were present but did not speak.

e. Czechoslovakia:

(1) Prof. Bross (fnu) spoke on the characteristics of purest iron. His assistant, Dr. Smirus (fnu), spoke on the production of purest iron. These two lectures showed that the Czechs had not achieved anything new but were now trying to do what had already been done in the UK and the USA.

(2) Klir (fnu), Hajto (fnu) and Prof. Dr. Zdenko Matyas were present but did not speak.

4. Many delegates agreed that, instead of about 40 contributions, there should have been 20 good ones. Much of what was said was only partly comprehensible to most of the audience because of the degree of specialization. By and large, the standard was lower than at the Physics Association's Berlin Conference in 1952. The best contributions were those of the Bulgarian Kaishev, Elschner (number 36 in the printed program and illustrated with an excellent film), and Richter (number 8 in the program); the worst contribution was that of Brauer (number 44 in the program), who had read the same paper at least five times before. The only spirited discussion was an argument which developed over items number 31, 32 and 33 in the program between Buer and his supporters and Moeglich and his.
5. Preconvention housing and social arrangements were very bad. There was nothing remotely resembling the banquet which took place during the 1952 conference in Berlin. In the hotels there were no single rooms available for any of the German participants. Hotel accommodations varied; in at least one hotel there was no heating in the bedrooms. The foreign visitors were better provided for, however.
6. The foreign visitors were frequently shadowed by SED members wearing their Party badges. On one occasion the Poles wanted to go shopping in Dresden and an SED man went with them, presumably to ensure that they were never alone with any of the German population.
7. It was suggested in several conversations among the delegates that the reason for holding the conference in Dresden was to prevent the visits to the Western Sector which would have occurred if it had been held in Berlin.

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Comments:

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1. Dr. Martin Strauss is now at the Friedrich-Schiller University of Jena, where he is working in the Institute of Theoretical Physics.
2. Prof. Sergy Mikhaylovich Chanyshev came from Tomsk University, where he was Dean of the Faculty of Physics and lectured in thermodynamics, statistical physics and the history of physics. He is at present a guest professor at the Humboldt University, East Berlin, where he lectures on lattice theory.
3. Cherkesov is the Soviet Control Commission liaison officer to various institutes of the East German Academy of Sciences.

Comment:

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Professor Rotislav Atanasov Kaishev, member-correspondent of the Bulgarian Academy of Science and Assistant Director of the Physics Institute at the Academy. (All Sofia newspapers, 22 August 1953.)

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APPENDIX

The following is an English translation of an article from the East German newspaper Vorwaerts, on 12 April 1954.

"

European Physicists demand the Prohibition of Atomic Weapons

Conference of Physics Association in Dresden appeals to all Physicists

"Dresden. The most prominent physicists of a number of European countries addressed an appeal to the physicists of the entire world to prevent the misuse of science and to enforce the banning of atomic weapons. The appeal, which was adopted at the end of the four day conference of the Physics Association of East Germany in Dresden, ran as follows:

'We physicists know that the use of the hydrogen bomb in war would mean the end of civilization. Accordingly, we raise our voices for the protection of all those things which human work and science have created, which we love and to which we cleave.

We appeal to all physicists to feel themselves responsible for the uses to which the results of their work are put. We call upon them to enlighten all mankind about the consequences of the misuse of science and to unite with all peace-loving people in the world in demanding the prohibition of atomic weapons.

Professor Belov, Moscow, member of the USSR Academy of Sciences
 Frau Professor Iveronova, Moscow, member of the USSR Academy of Sciences
 National Prizewinner Professor Rudolf Seeliger, Greifswald, member of the
 East German Academy of Sciences
 National Prizewinner Professor Friedrich Moeglich, Berlin
 National Prizewinner Professor Dr. Rompe, Berlin, member of the East
 German Academy of Sciences
 Professor Dr. Paul Kinze, University of Rostock
 Professor Dr. Wilhelm Schuetz, University of Jena
 Professor Dr. Leopold Infeld, Warsaw, member of the Polish Academy of
 Sciences, Vice-President of the World Peace Council
 Professor Dr. Laszlo Janossy, Budapest, member of the Hungarian Academy
 of Sciences
 Professor Dr. Zdenko Matyas, Prague
 Professor Dr. Kaishev, Sofia, member of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
 Professor Dr. Novak, Bucharest, member of the Rumanian Academy of Sciences

and numerous other well-known physicists."¹

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